

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES

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The California Resources Agency is responsible for the conservation, enhancement, and management of California's natural and cultural resources, including land, water, wildlife, parks, minerals, and historic sites. As Secretary for Resources, it is my pleasure to oversee the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, one of eight conservancies in the Resources Agency.

Fiscal year 2001-2002 was a landmark year for land conservation in California. With the passage of Proposition 40, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, California voters sent a clear message of the importance of preserving the State's natural resources and acquiring and improving parkland. With this mandate, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will have added resources to continue in its mission to preserve the natural beauty of Southern California while making recreational opportunities available to millions of urban residents.

As a cooperative partner with Federal, State and local agencies, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was able to acquire significant properties this year, increasing public access to open space throughout the region. These included a pristine 386-acre portal from the San Fernando Valley into the largest urban wilderness in the United States, and 442 acres in the burgeoning Santa Clarita Valley adjacent to the Angeles National Forest. Fulfilling Governor Gray Davis' commitment to protect and preserve our coastal areas for the enjoyment of all Californians, the Conservancy received a donation of more than 1,000 acres of stunning coastal bluff property paralleling more than two miles of the Pacific Ocean. This was the result of the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000, signed into law by Governor Gray Davis.

As we work together to preserve the natural beauty of California, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will continue to play an important role in vital planning efforts, such as the Legacy Project and the South Coast Wildlands Project, to maximize the effectiveness of public land preservation. With its efforts along the Los Angeles River and extending to South Central Los Angeles, the Conservancy is at the forefront of reintegrating nature into the urban environment. We look forward to working with the Conservancy to further implement Governor Davis' Urban Parks Initiative and bring parkland to all residents of this great State.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mary D. Nichols". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**MARY D. NICHOLS**

Secretary for Resources  
The Resources Agency